

HONORING DANIEL J. BADER, RECIPIENT OF THE 1999 COMMUNITY SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel J. Bader, recipient of the 1999 Community Service Human Relations Award from the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Bader is president of the Helen Bader Foundation, which has awarded more than \$50 million in grants since 1992 with the express aim of advancing the well-being of people and promoting successful relationships with their families and communities. As president, Mr. Bader leads the foundation's day-to-day interaction with projects and programs in the United States, mainly in Wisconsin, and also Israel.

He is a member of the foundation's seven-member board of directors, which evaluates grant proposals and provides strategic oversight of the foundation's grants programs, mainly in the areas of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, early childhood development in Israel, economic development, education, Jewish life, and learning and supporting programs for central city children and youth.

It is noteworthy to recognize the leadership of Mr. Bader and the foundation in the establishment of the American Jewish Committee's Hands Across the Campus program, which was given its "jump-start" in Milwaukee. The program's innovative curriculum and leadership development program now operates in five school districts in southeastern Wisconsin. Each year hundreds of high school students are given hands-on experience in bridge building, conflict resolution, anti-bias activities and the deconstruction of prejudice. The Bader Foundation enabled the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee to provide teacher training for practitioners of the Hands program.

Mr. Bader is partner in Granite Microsystems, Inc., a Mequon-based computer hardware firm. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. A Milwaukee native, he and his wife, Linda, reside with their son on Milwaukee's east side.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I commend Daniel J. Bader for his outstanding and innovative contributions to the community, and congratulate him as a most deserving recipient of the 1999 Community Service Human Relations Award from the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. PAULETTE DALE OF MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Paulette Dale of

Miami-Dade Community College in Miami, Florida, for her contributions as a speech-pathology professor towards the emotional betterment of all people. Dr. Dale is the director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Miami-Dade Community College's Kendall Campus, where she has taught for 23 years.

Previously, Dr. Dale was a bilingual speech pathologist in Dade and Broward County public schools. She holds a Ph.D. in speech pathology and linguistics.

Recently, Dr. Dale published a book on assertiveness which she hopes will help women to develop self-esteem. Dr. Dale believes that low self-esteem is far too pervasive in America, particularly among women. Based on anecdotes from her own life, the book is titled, "Did You Say Something, Susan? How Any Woman Can Gain Confidence with Assertive Communication."

It is a privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Paulette Dale, who uses her vast knowledge and her own life experiences to help others.

HONORING MISS AFTON STANFORD

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor Miss Afton Stanford of Poplarville, MS. Miss Stanford is the Mississippi winner of the 1999 Voice of Democracy broadcast script-writing contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As reward for her script, she received a VFW scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC to compete with other national finalists.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is a national essay competition that allows high school students the opportunity to share their opinions on service, sacrifice and responsibility to their country. The 1998-99 competition theme was "My Service to America," in which students reflected on their individual involvement in local communities. Out of the 80,000 participants, Miss Stanford was one of fifty-four finalists, and it gives me great pride to share her winning essay with you.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Afton Stanford)

As I stand looking through the thick glass protecting the faded blue uniform, and the yellowed photograph I wonder how old this boy was. If it were not for the fact that he was in the military, I'd say he were my age. He looks like a boy in my chemistry class, you know the silent type that grins a lot but really never says much. I'm not sure if that is what he really was like, but I'd like to think so. Who would ever believe that this young kid would ever have the chance to save others. When I look into his eyes, I don't see a kid who wants to be a hero, I see a kid ready to experience life. Maybe he was a little uncertain about his future, or even wondering if he made the right decision in joining the military, whatever it was I can imagine a mixture of emotions swirling through his dark eyes. At 18, many people might think a kid knows nothing about sacrifice. But this boy, this young boy, made the ultimate sacrifice.

A few summers ago, I volunteered for a women's crisis shelter. At the time I thought it was fun, meeting new people, helping oth-

ers in the process. But, only after it was all over did I grasp the concept of "service." Service to my God, service to my country. When I got home I found other places to volunteer; I help Red Cross, if any disasters happen and they need help collecting food or handing out blankets, I'll be there. I also help at the food bank, sorting cans that people donate so the families less fortunate can eat. Giving up Saturdays and spending a week helping others seems trivial, in comparison to this boy who gave his life to save others, but it's a beginning.

I got a great start at home. My parents have instilled in me the desire to help other people improve their lives. My parents stressed the need for helping others, because in helping others everyone lives better. They also taught me to take pride in what I do, the jobs I hold and what I believe. National pride is something sacred. All Americans have lost family and friends to have these rights, and the least I can do is maintain the life they fought for.

Sometimes my life gets too hectic and chaotic to think about anyone but myself. That's why every day I try to make it a point to do something, however little for someone else. From sweeping leaves for an elderly neighbor to working at the food bank I try to pitch in. Helping is contagious. When I have volunteered, my friends have seen how much I loved the people I helped and the work and they have begun to volunteer too. If each American has this attitude it will make a big difference. Part of my service to America is encouraging others to help in any way they can and knowing that every kindness honors the people who've gone before us.

I believe that being an American citizen means helping others in need. This is one of the strongest values of Americans. For a young man to throw himself on a land mine to save his platoon exemplifies the ideals of self-sacrifice and service that is the corner stone of America. While I'm standing here looking at this display of congressional honor, I wonder how his mother felt. The last time she ironed his uniform and picked off the little stray threads for this display, was she aware of how much I appreciate what her son gave up and what she gave up through him? I only hope that my little sacrifices and services will be able to honor his death and all deaths that make the quality of life that I enjoy possible. I can only hope that one day I'll be able to give a service of this magnitude to my country.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13) As I walk away I hope to take a little inspiration from this boy who selflessly embodied these values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during a rollcall vote: number 129, on the Sanders of Vermont amendment, as amended, to H.R. 1555, Intelligence Authorization. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no."